

In just five years, the Center demonstrated the merits of combining two different health care systems. Through hard work and dedication, the FHCC staff has shown that one health care facility can annually provide excellent care to over 90,000 military personnel, their families, military retirees and Veterans. I would like to personally congratulate Director Dr. Stephan Holt, and Deputy Director Navy Captain Bob Buckley. Their vision and enthusiasm facilitated the integration tremendously.

I look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries of the Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for Roll Call vote number 518. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on final passage of H.R. 348, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015. On Roll Call number 514, (Gosar of Arizona Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 348) I intended to vote "YEA."

CELEBRATING THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 375th anniversary of Farmington, Connecticut.

During the month of August and September, seven historical organizations planned History Day to display, honor, and celebrate influential Farmington community leaders. This historic milestone recognizes Farmington's deeply rooted history and significance as one of the first settlements in New England.

Over the past 375 years, Farmington residents have enjoyed the fruits of the land, scenic views along the Farmington River, and trails through the Farmington Valley greenway. Though closely neighboring the major metropolitan hub of Hartford, the town of Farmington has maintained its unique character through careful land use and historic preservation.

On September 13, 2015, the town celebrated History Day, educating community members about the first Tunxis Indians who welcomed new settlers into the area. In 1640, the early settlers purchased the land that would become Farmington. During the mid-1700s, Farmington's rich farmland and access to water made it an attractive destination for homesteaders. As trade opportunities evolved, a booming economy brought with it an era of technological innovation. Manufacturers located their factories in the Unionville section of Farmington to take advantage of its easy access to the Farmington Canal, which was later replaced by a railroad.

Through its many periods of growth, Farmington continues to embody the values instilled

by its early inhabitants to promote its natural resources. From its wooden lands, to the majestic river and valley, Farmington offers its residents a getaway from the Hartford metropolitan area, while remaining in a central location in the state. I am honored to represent Farmington in Congress.

Congratulations to Farmington on its 375th anniversary.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF NATIONAL RICE MONTH

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with America's rice farmers in celebrating the month of September as National Rice Month.

It has been 25 years since September was first declared National Rice Month.

On this silver anniversary, I want to pay a special tribute to the hard working men and women who produce rice on their family farms.

I would also like to recognize all of those who mill and market rice, all of the suppliers and buyers, and, of course, all of the consumers who make rice an essential part of their diet.

Rice farming in America actually predates our nation's independence, beginning some 300 years ago.

Today, America's rice industry creates 125,000 good-paying jobs and contributes an estimated \$34 billion to our nation's economy, including an estimated direct impact of \$169.8 million in my home state of Texas.

Nine million tons of rice are grown each year by family farmers on some 2.7 million acres of land, predominately in the states of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas. While these six states produce the lion's share of rice in America, there is also rice production in other states, like Illinois and Tennessee, and the entire rice industry reaches every state in the nation, especially those states with cereal makers, breweries, and other food-makers that use rice as a key ingredient.

On top of this, about half of America's rice crop is bound for export markets, helping to feed people around the globe while positively contributing to our nation's balance of trade.

Although the figures I just listed are as impressive as they are important, the benefits of rice are not limited to jobs and the economy.

Health-wise, rice is a source of more than 15 vitamins and minerals and 100% gluten-free, with only 100 calories per serving. Brown rice is 100% whole grain and may reduce the risk of heart disease and certain cancers.

What is more, studies suggest that those who eat rice have healthier diets than those who do not.

On the conservation front, America's rice farmers have a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources. Today, U.S. rice farmers produce more rice using less land, energy, and water than they did just 20 years ago. Our rice farms provide critical habitat for hundreds of species, particularly migratory birds.

America's rice farmers continue to serve as leaders in the farming community by pro-

ducing a healthy, conservation-friendly food that, as a byproduct, generates jobs and economic opportunity.

It is fitting that we honor the hard working American farmers, millers, merchants, suppliers and buyers, and the consumers who make rice not only such a wholesome and popular food but an important part of our economy.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in celebrating September as National Rice Month.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD RAINWATER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Richard Rainwater sadly passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2015, at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. The following obituary by Miguel Bustillo, Gregory Zuckerman and Rob Copeland was published in The Wall Street Journal on September 27, 2015. The citizens of South Carolina especially appreciate the Rainwater and Moore families for their phenomenal generosity promoting business education at the University of South Carolina.

Long before Wall Street was littered with swaggering hedge-fund billionaires, Richard Rainwater earned a Texas-size reputation as an investor with an eye on the big score.

He helped install Michael Eisner as Walt Disney Co. chief executive, steered George W. Bush to buy a stake in Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers and helped multiply the Bass family fortune one-hundredfold before building a billion-dollar one of his own.

"My brother said, 'Don't be mediocre at anything; be remarkable at something,'" Mr. Rainwater recalled in 2010 in a speech at Stanford University.

Mr. Rainwater died on Sunday morning at his home in Fort Worth, Texas, according to the Rainwater Charitable Foundation and his family. He had been suffering from complications of a rare brain disease. He was 71 years old.

Born to a middle-class family, Mr. Rainwater parlayed a gift for mathematics and a gregarious personality into a more than \$2 billion fortune as a financial adviser and wheeler-dealer whose underlings went on to become chief executives, governors and hedge-fund tycoons.

"He was a laid back guy who liked to invest but he was not a fan of fancy dinners or some of the other things that went with it," his son, Todd, said on Sunday. "What he was best at is being a talent scout. He would find a troubled business, find the best person to run it, the Michael Jordan of that industry, and inevitably that person would turn the business around."

A native of Fort Worth, Mr. Rainwater attended the Stanford Graduate School of Business on scholarship, where he met Sid Bass, who hired him to serve as chief investment adviser for the Bass brothers, who were also from Fort Worth.

He began working in 1970 for the Bass family, which had inherited an oil fortune from Texas wildcatter Sid Williams Richardson, and helped them to dramatically increase their wealth over the next decade and a half through a dizzying succession of deals.

Perhaps the most famous deal was the Bass family's rescue of then-struggling Disney in

1984 with a nearly \$500 million investment to ward off a potential hostile takeover bid by financier Saul Steinberg. Mr. Rainwater helped handpick a new management team for Disney led by Mr. Eisner that brought the studio back to prominence—and made the Bass brothers billions.

“Richard was one of best deal guys who ever lived,” said David Bonderman, who met Mr. Rainwater while working for Robert Bass and later founded private-equity giant TPG. “He was always confident and idiosyncratic, and generally was right.”

Mr. Rainwater struck out on his own in the late 1980s, continuing his penchant for spotting distressed assets and market quirks that made for bold investment opportunities through his private-equity firm, Rainwater Inc. His winning moves included buying more than 15 million square feet of downtown Houston real estate during a slump in the mid-1990s; many of the properties later sold for two or three times his purchase price.

In addition to mastering the art of the deal, Mr. Rainwater became known for his extraordinary ability to spot and cultivate young talent during the 1980s and early 1990s. His Fort Worth offices became a salon of sorts for ambitious young financiers.

Among those he encouraged was Edward S. Lampert, who began his ESL Investments Inc. hedge fund in the office. Down the hall at the time was Rick Scott, who became the CEO of the Columbia/HCA hospital chain and is now governor of Florida.

“He believed in [young people] and made them believe in themselves,” said Mr. Lampert, who later made a fortune for investors buying the debt of Kmart and steering the troubled retailer out of bankruptcy.

Mr. Rainwater’s unorthodox personal style—he would often stand on his desk to hammer home a point—made an impression on his protégés, as did his lack of pretense. Mr. Bonderman recalled how Mr. Rainwater once traveled to a city to cut a deal without packing a suitcase; the billionaire brought a change of clothes in a paper bag.

“He couldn’t be bothered, he was a total character,” Mr. Bonderman said. “It was all about making lot of money and having fun doing it.”

Mr. Rainwater, who had three children with his first wife, Karen, married Darla Moore, a prominent bankruptcy banker, in 1991.

Ms. Moore became CEO of Rainwater Inc. in 1994 and brought a harder edge to some of the firm’s dealings that generated controversy, notably when it forced oilman T. Boone Pickens to leave the company he founded, Mesa Petroleum, in 1996.

Mr. Rainwater had slowed his investment activity, playing golf and traveling with his wife, when he began experiencing falls and mood changes. He slowly withdrew from public life as the symptoms of progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare brain disease with no known cure, became more pronounced and he lost his ability to speak clearly. Doctors warned his friends and family that he would almost certainly die from the disease.

Undeterred, Mr. Rainwater’s family tackled the problem through an investment, creating the Tau Consortium, a group of international scientists, which is trying to understand and ultimately treat degenerative brain diseases such as the one that struck Mr. Rainwater. The Tau Consortium has spent a total of more than \$50 million trying to find a solution to the disease, a cure that may also assist people with a more common illness: Alzheimer’s disease, Todd Rainwater said Sunday.

“Just like my father invested in business, we went about assembling the top team possible to work on this,” he said. “I do have

faith that ultimately, we will be able to make a difference.”

MR. GEORGE AIGEN

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. George Aigen today for his ninetieth birthday. As a veteran of World War II, he has been a leader in his community, and revered for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Seventy one years ago, Mr. Aigen was drafted into the Army as a corporal in the 1269th Engineer Combat Battalion. At the age of nineteen, he had experienced much fighting and witnessed horrible atrocities while serving in Europe. In 1945, as the war drew to a close, Mr. Aigen was among the first soldiers to liberate the prisoners of Dachau, one of the oldest Nazi concentration camps.

In his community, Mr. Aigen has spoken to schools, universities, and countless organizations about the horrors committed by the Nazis and the importance of military service. His dedication to our country has been commemorated across Georgia from the Valdosta community to the state capitol. Mr. Aigen’s story has been archived at the Library of Congress and televised by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Through his actions, service, and community involvement, Mr. Aigen has demonstrated that he is a leader, a mentor, and a hero. I am humbled to honor him and his legacy as our nation’s servicemen and servicewomen secure our freedoms for future generations.

H.R. 348—RAPID ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 25, 2015, I voted against H.R. 348, the RAPID Act, which, if enacted, would severely weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under current law, NEPA requires federal agencies to go through a public assessment of the environmental impacts of certain proposed federal actions and mandates the consideration of alternatives to those actions. This process often identifies alternatives that are less costly and have fewer impacts on the environment.

While I support efforts to refine our regulatory process in a manner that rewards outcomes instead of dictating onerous processes, H.R. 348 adds confusion and would lead to worse outcomes for our environment, communities and future generations. This bill would allow potential developers to prepare environmental review documents for their proposed projects, creating clear conflicts of interest. The bill prohibits agencies from using the social cost of carbon in the environmental review or decision-making process and it limits the ability of an aggrieved party to seek judicial review of a permit or license. The bill imposes arbitrary and rigid deadlines for review and ap-

proval, and it provides for default approvals of permits or licenses if deadlines are not met; a measure that wholly undermines the environmental review process.

The stated goal of this bill is to help projects—including infrastructure projects—to move forward more quickly. The NEPA process, however, is not the reason for project delays; other factors such as project complexity and under-resourced agencies are to blame. At the Army Corps of Engineers, there is a \$60 billion backlog of authorized water resources projects that were successfully approved under NEPA, but have not been built due to lack of funding. Our roads and bridges are in disrepair, not due to NEPA, but because the Congress has failed to act to raise the gas tax, leaving the federal government short of resources. The Highway Trust Fund is projected to need \$90 billion in additional revenue over the next six years just to stay solvent. Additionally, the NEPA process, which ensures the public has a voice in the planning of major projects that impact their communities, leads to better decision-making and better projects. In the end, NEPA saves time, money and reduces negative impacts.

NEPA’s positive impact is unquestionable—it is one of the nation’s bedrock environmental laws, ensuring careful decision making and public participation. I am disappointed to see H.R. 348 pass the House, which will only limit the public’s participation, increase confusion and undermine responsible agency reviews.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENARD DAVIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Denard Davis, a pillar of the community in Merced County. Mr. Denard Davis passed away September 8th, 2015. He is survived by his wife Yvonne, two daughters, Donna and Dorma, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Denard Davis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on May 15, 1934. Denard left New Orleans to attend Texas College in Tyler, Texas. Denard then served in the United States Marine Corps.

After his discharge from the Corps in 1959 he went to San Francisco to work as a substitute teacher. On May 16, 1960 he married his childhood sweetheart Yvonne. On August 13th 1960 the newlyweds arrived in Merced where Denard began working for the Merced City School District. After teaching for fifteen years Denard became the first African American Assistant Superintendent of Merced County schools, providing administrative leadership for over 30 years.

Denard Davis had extensive experience in the planning and development of educational programs from their inception to their implementation. He was an instrumental part in the development of the Head Start buildings in Planada and South Dos Palos. Denard also played an essential role in the development of preschool programs and buildings in the migrant worker camps in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. His efforts later extended to Madera and Contra Costa counties